

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-17 remain pending after this response.

Claim Amendments

By this amendment, claim 3 is cancelled and the limitations thereof added to claims 5, 11 and 13 whereby claims 5, 11 and 13 are now presented in independent form. Various editorial amendments are also made in the claims. None of the amendments narrow the scope of the claims. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 4-17. However, for the reasons noted below, all pending claims are believed to define patentable subject matter.

Request for Initialed PTO Form 1449

Applicants request receipt in the next communication from the Examiner of initialed PTO Forms 1449 relating to the Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 20, 2005 and July 25, 2005, each of which was filed after issuance of the instant Official Action.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimada et al published U.S. patent application 2003/0054288. This rejection respectfully is traversed.

In support of the rejection, the Examiner states as follows at pages 2-3 of the Action: "In Example 25, Shimada teaches (see [00283]-[0287]) a planographic printing plant precursor which comprises a substrate and a photosensitive layer, and the composition for the photosensitive layer contains a polymerization initiator (present component (B)), an addition-polymerization compound (present component (C)), and a light-heat converting agent DX-1", with compound DX-1 being "shown in present specification (p. 27) as one of preferred examples for the present compound (A)".

In response, applicants note that the presensitized plate of claim 1 has an image recording layer which is removable with printing ink and/or dampening water. This feature enables on-machine development with printing ink and/or dampening water without performing a wet development step using an alkaline developer.

On the other hand, in the planographic printing plate precursor according to Example 25 of Shimada, it is a prerequisite to perform the wet development step using an alkaline developer, with the on-machine development with printing ink and/or dampening water being impossible.

The planographic printing plate precursor according to Example 25 of Shimada uses a binder B-1 as shown in Table 2 at paragraphs [0286]-[0287] of the specification. Paragraph [0253] describes the binder as being "Allyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid/N-isopropylamide copolymer (copolymerization molar ratio: 67/13/20), acid value (measured by NaOH titration) 1.15 meq/g, weight-average molecular weight 130,000."

Binder B-1 has a strong carboxy group and is thus absorbed on the surface of the substrate. Therefore, unexposed areas of photosensitive layer of the planographic printing plate precursor according to Example 25 of Shimada cannot be completely removed with printing ink and/or dampening water on the printing machine even if it is not cured. In particular, if printing is performed without performing the wet development step using the alkaline developer, portions of unexposed areas of the photosensitive layer remain on the substrate. Inks thus adhere to those portions.

As a result, dirt is generated on prints. Incidentally, if development is performed using an alkaline developer in the planographic printing plate precursor according to Example 25 of Shimada, this type of problem does not occur since the absorption of the carboxy group with the substrate is negated.

The planographic printing plate precursor according to Example 25 of Shimada thus does not correspond to the image recording layer of the present invention which is removable with printing ink and/or dampening water.

The invention of claims 1 and 2 is accordingly not anticipated by the cited reference, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

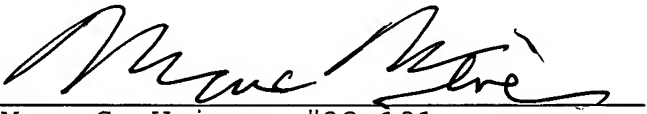
In view of the above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

A check in the amount of \$120.00 is attached as payment for the requested one month extension of time.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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